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One Arizona High School Celebrates 100% Pass Rate on AIMS

Tucson, AZ – This year, one Arizona high school received perfect marks on the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) exam. In 2009, BASIS Tucson charter school was the only high school with 100 percent of its students passing the AIMS exam in *every subject tested* (math, reading, writing, and science), beating out even selective schools that require entry examinations. BASIS Tucson high school students also exceeded the state standards on the AIMS exam at a higher rate than students in any other school in Arizona.

AIMS Results: 2009	Percent of Students Meeting and Exceeding AIMS Standards				Percent of Students Exceeding AIMS Standards			
	Math	Reading	Writing	Science	Math	Reading	Writing	Science
BASIS Tucson (8th grade)	100	100	100	100	79	45	13	96
Arizona Average (8th grade)	63	69	86	56	15	9	3	32
BASIS Tucson (high school)	100	100	100	100	82	50	43	91
Arizona Average high school)	69	71	80	52	20	10	5	23

BASIS Tucson was also the only Arizona high school receiving a 100 percent pass rate on the AIMS Science exam. The AIMS science exam has proven problematic for other students and schools. Just over half of all eighth grade and high school students in Arizona passed the AIMS Science exam (meaning they met the state’s *minimum* standards for science education). At BASIS Tucson, 91 percent of students *exceeded* the state standards in science.

These results beg the question: What is BASIS Tucson doing right when it comes to science education? According to the school’s co-founder, Dr. Michael Block, teaching biology, chemistry, and physics as separate subjects beginning in the sixth grade is one of the reasons for the school’s success. “Requiring middle school students to engage in the sciences as separate subjects, as we do at BASIS, gives them a basic but solid understanding of the concepts they will develop further in the high school program,” says Block, “Without a solid foundation, students fall behind and struggle to master new concepts.”

Robert Compton, executive producer of *Two Million Minutes*, a documentary film on global education has taken note of the success of the BASIS academic program. According to Compton, “Every country is trying to figure out how to raise the standards of education to prepare their children for the 21st Century and BASIS has done it. It is academically as rigorous as anything I have seen in the world.”

BASIS Tucson and its sister school BASIS Scottsdale will be the focus of Compton’s forthcoming documentary entitled *Two Million Minutes: A 21st Century Solution*, scheduled for release this fall.

For more information on BASIS Tucson and its academic program visit www.basistucson.org.

BASIS Tucson was founded by Michael and Olga Block in 1998. Its student’s successes have earned national recognition by *Newsweek* and *US News & World Report*.

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